

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 005376

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

HQ MC/ MSPA-1

JCS

SECDEF

MAC SCOTT AFB IL

CMC

CSAF

JCRC SAMAE SAN THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005376

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CASC, VS

SUBJECT: RETURN OF MARINE BODIES FROM VIETNAM/STAFFDEL

DEHAAN

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 005376

REFS: A) VIENTIANE 0027; B) STATE 003040; C) GENEVA 0053
(ALL NOTAL)

1. DALE DEHAAN AND JERRY TINKER OF SENATOR KENNEDY'S REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE STAFF MET WITH STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICERS JAN. 7 FOR BRIEFING ON THEIR EXPECTED TRIP TO VIETNAM TO RECEIVE REMAINS OF U.S. MARINES JUDGE AND MACMAHON KILLED APRIL 29 DURING EVACUATION OF SAIGON.

2. STAFFDEL DOES NOT YET HAVE WORD FROM DRV ON TIMING OR ITINERARY BUT EXPECTS TO HEAR FURTHER ON THIS SOON FROM DRV EMBASSY PARIS. THEY THINK THEY WILL RECEIVE BODIES IN SAIGON, ALTHOUGH THEY RECOGNIZE DRV MAY PREFER TO BRING BODIES TO HANOI FOR TRANSFER THERE TO STAFFDEL.

3. STAFFDEL EXPECTS TO GO FIRST TO PARIS TO OBTAIN DRV VISA AND TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER, PROCEEDING FROM THERE TO HANOI VIA BANGKOK AND VIENTIANE. STAFFDEL HAS MADE NO ARRANGEMENTS WITH UNHCR OR ICRC THUS FAR BUT ASSUMES TRANSPORTATION ON UNHCR OR ICRC CHARTER CAN BE ARRANGED AT SHORT NOTICE WHEN TIME AND PLACE OF TRANSFER OF REMAINS ARE SET.

4. DEPTOFFS REVIEWED DETAILS OF PREVIOUS RETURNS OF REMAINS IN MARCH 1974 AND TO CODEL MONTGOMERY IN DECEMBER, 1975, SUGGESTING THAT STAFFDEL MIGHT FIND IT USEFUL TO INCLUDE JCRC/CIL REMAINS IDENTIFICATION EXPERTS IN PARTY TO RECEIVE BODIES AS WAS DONE BY CODEL MONTGOMERY. STAFFDEL WAS RECEPTIVE TO THIS SUGGESTION AND SAID THEY WOULD TRY IT OUT ON THE VIETNAMESE DURING THEIR CONTACT IN PARIS.

5. STAFFDEL RECOGNIZES NEED TO KEEP POSTS INFORMED ON ARRANGEMENTS AND AGREED TO CONTACT MARK PRATT IN PARIS FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING WITH DRV EMBASSY TO PROVIDE INFORMATION FOR ONWARD POSTS ON EXPECTED REQUIREMENTS. IN ANY EVENT, THEY EXPECT TO DELIVER REMAINS TO JCRC/CIL REPS IN BANGKOK, AND THEY WOULD LIKE, IF POSSIBLE, TO ACCOMPANY REMAINS BACK TO TRAVIS. STAFFDEL IS PREPARED TO WAIT IN THAILAND TO PROVIDE TIME FOR REMAINS PROCESSING AT JCRC/CIL AND ACCORDINGLY HOPES PROCESSING WILL BE DONE AS RAPIDLY AS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 005376

POSSIBLE CONSISTENT WITH NECESSARY PROCEDURES.

6. IF STAFFDEL STAYS IN THAILAND THEY ANTICIPATE USING TIME TO CONTACT UNHCR AND TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS AND CENTERS, IN FURTHERANCE OF THEIR OTHER INTERESTS ON BEHALF OF SENATE REFUGEE SUBCOMMITTEE.

7. STAFFDEL ALSO PLANS TO TRY TO ASK ABOUT AMERICANS RE-

MAINING IN SOUTH VIETNAM AND TO SEE WHAT THEY CAN DO TO ARRANGE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THEM TO LEAVE. THEY HAVE WITH THEM AN INFORMAL LIST OF AMCITS IN SOUTH VIETNAM WITH INDICATIONS OF WHICH ONES REPORTEDLY WISH TO LEAVE.

8. STAFFDEL ALSO HAS INFORMATION FILES ON THE 40 AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND CIVILIANS LISTED BY THE PRG AS HAVING DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THESE ARE THE NAMES FURNISHED BY THE PRG IN JANUARY 1973 IN PARIS PURSUANT TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT. STAFFDEL PLANS TO PURSUE THIS SUBJECT BY ASKING ABOUT POSSIBLE RETURN OF REMAINS OF THESE PERSONS.

9. FOR VIENTIANE: WE INFORMED STAFFDEL OF NEED FOR ADVANCE NOTICE ON THEIR TRAVEL PLANS TO VIENTIANE. THEIR PRESENT INTENTION IS NOT TO STOP IN VIENTIANE EXCEPT AS REQUIRED FOR AIR TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS. KISSINGER

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